

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 11-14, of which claim 11 is independent. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Claims 12-14 are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

There is accompanying this Amendment replacement sheets corresponding to all of the drawings in this application. As explained below, these replacement sheets reflect amendments which in combination with the amendments to the specification address the informalities and other drawing objections cited in the outstanding Official Action.

Figures 8 and 17 have been identified as prior art in accordance with the Examiner's requirement.

Applicants have amended the specification to add reference characters corresponding to reference characters cited in the drawings and not previously mentioned in the specification. More specifically, page 14 has been amended to cite reference character --R11--, page 28 has been amended to cite reference character --t--, page 44, has been amended to cite reference characters --31a, 31b, and 31c--, and page 54 of the specification has been amended to recite reference character --95--. Withdrawal of this aspect of the objection to the drawings is respectfully sought.

The Examiner also cited in the Official Action numerous instances of reference characters being used to designate two distinct elements in the drawings. As the Examiner will appreciate, in the above amendments to the specification and drawings, Applicants have, in each

instance, changed one of the duplicative reference characters to a different reference character in the drawings and specification. In so doing, it is respectfully submitted that the objection based on duplicate use of reference characters has been addressed and should now be withdrawn.

Applicants have also amended the drawings to correct sectional cross-hatching as noted by the Examiner. Applicants have either eliminated all cross-hatching for those members in which a specific material was not identified or have changed the cross-hatching to correspond to the specific material identified in the specification. More specifically, Applicants have eliminated cross-hatching for members 23a, 23b, 40', and member 430 (formally member 43) in Figures 14 and 15; and have hatched member 30 as metal, and member 40 as resin, and member 410 (formally member 41) as aluminum.

Given the above amendments to the specification and drawings, withdrawal of the objections to those drawings is respectfully sought.

Applicants have amended the abstract to reduce its size and now respectfully submit that it meets the requirements cited by the Examiner. Applicants have also amended the specification to address the informalities cited in the outstanding Official Action and have amended claim 11 to address the informalities cited therein.

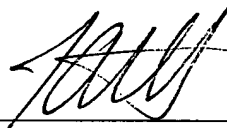
Claim 11 was identified as reciting patentable subject matter and being allowable once amended to address the informalities cited by the Examiner in the outstanding Official Action. As the Examiner will appreciate, Applicants have made further minor amendments to claim 11 solely to improve upon its form. It is submitted that the amendments do not change the scope of that claim and that claim 11 remains in condition for allowance.

Applicants also submit herewith new claims 12-14. Each of these claims depends from claim 11 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 11. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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